



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
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# Press Release

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Attorney General Applauds Judge's Recommendations as a Victory For Business in The Eastern Panhandle**

An Administrative Law Judge for the Public Service Commission has recommended that Allied Waste Systems, Inc. be allowed to provide solid waste collection and disposal services to businesses in Berkeley and Jefferson Counties, the two fastest growing counties in the State. Currently, the only company that has a Public Service Commission Certificate to pick up garbage from businesses in these counties is Waste Management, Inc., the largest solid waste company in North America. For years, area businesses and community leaders have complained that Waste Management's service was slow and unreliable. Because other companies were not allowed to compete within Waste Management's territory, area businesses had no choice but to put up with it.

In a recommended decision issued late Friday, Judge Ronnie McCann agreed that an additional solid waste hauler was needed, and recommended that a certificate be granted to Allied Waste Systems, another large solid waste company. Allied applied for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity in July of 2005. Waste Management objected, seeking to protect its legalized monopoly, so the Attorney General stepped in on behalf of the Berkeley County Solid Waste Authority, arguing that competition would make for better service at lower rates. After hearing evidence from customers and local civic leaders that were unhappy with Waste Management, Judge McCann ruled that Waste Management's service was not "adequate and efficient," opening the door to competition.

Attorney General Darrell McGraw said, "We anticipate that businesses in the Eastern Panhandle will now get better garbage service at lower rates. This will help them compete with businesses in neighboring Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, where garbage collection services are cheaper because there is competition."

If any party objects to the recommended decision, the Public Service Commission will decide whether to adopt or reject the recommendation, which may be found online at [this location](#)

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